Villages without post office

87. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of villages state-wise still without a post office;

(b) whether Government have drawn any time-bound programme to provide post offices in all the villages;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the number of postmen in the country serving in these villages;

(e) the steps taken by Government to improve their working conditions; and

(f) the details with regard to the state of Madhya Pradesh, in particular, as against the points raised from (b) to (e) above?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) The number of villages Circle-wise still without a post office is given in the enclosed statement. (*See below*)

(b) and (c) There is no time bound programme for providing post offices in all the villages. Government's objective is to progressively extend the postal network to the villages which satisfy the norms prescribed in accordance with the Government's policy within the resources available, giving priority to Gram Panchayat Headquarters where there is no post office available in panchayat areas.

(d) In the villages, the work of postmen is being done by the Extra Departmental Delivery Agents (EDDAs). The total number of this category of employees as on 31.3.94 is 1,01,698.

(e) The working conditions of the ED Employees are being under constant review within the overall financial constraints. They have been brought at par with departmental employees for grant of Dearness Allowance and productivity linked bonus. Recently, the quantum of ex-gratia gratuity has been enhanced from Rs. 3000/- to Rs. 6000/-. They have also been covered under the Group Insurance Scheme. Reasonable opportunities are also available for their recruitment in departmental cadres.

(f) In Madhya Pradesh, there were 7728 EDDAS as on 31.3.94. The benefits indicated above are also applicable to these employees.

Statement

Number odf villages without Post Offices

S. No.	Name of Circle	Villages without post offices
1	2	3
1	Andhra Pradesh	11927
2	Assam	21144
3	Bihar	56445
4	Delhi	63

1	2	3
5	Gujarat	10070
6	Haryana	4509
7	Himachal Pradesh	14475
8	Jammu & Kashmir	5111
9	Karnataka	18544
10	Kerala	—
11	Mahrashtra	25921
12	Madhya Pradesh	61655
13	North East	11478
14	Orissa	39388
15	Punjab	9066
16	Rajasthan	27952
17	Tamil Nadu	7300
18	Uttar Pradesh	94811
19	West Bengal	31236
	ALL INDIA TOTAL	451195

Resources crunch in D.O.T.

88. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Departmental of Telecommunication; is facing serious resource crunch;

(b) whether it has sought various concessions to generate resources for the development of telecommunications services;

(c) how Government are going to accede to the request of the Department of Telecommunications to make it self-sufficient; and

(d) whether Government intends to give some concessions in excise and custom duty to the Ministry of Communilations for the import of necessary machinery for telecommunication services?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) No Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise in view of (a) above;

(d) The following reductions were allowed in the Budget 1994-95;

(i) Reduction in customs duty on Sub-Assemblies/Modules required for manufacture of telecom. equipment from 60 percent to 50 percent.

(ii) Reduction in the customs duty in import of components required for manufacture of telecom. equipment from 50 per cent to 40 percent.